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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/08/2027
TAGS: [KTFN](#) [EFIN](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [MNUC](#) [AR](#)
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE SUPPORT FOR FATF STATEMENT ON IRAN

REF: A. STATE 149648
[1](#)B. BUENOS AIRES 2191 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: EconOff Chris Landberg For Reasons 1.4 (B and D).

[1](#)1. (C) Econoff delivered Ref A demarche on FATF's statement on Iran November 7 to Dr. Juan Felix Marteau, the Argentine government's National Coordinator for anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism finance (AML/CTF). Marteau, who reports directly to the Minister of Justice, is the GoA's representative to FATF (and also to GAFISUD -- the southern cone regional FATF). Marteau responded that Argentina strongly supported the U.S. on this statement during the October FATF plenary, and he is consulting within the Justice Ministry and with the Central Bank on issuing an advisory to local financial institutions.

[1](#)2. (C) However, Marteau emphasized GoA caution on this issue due to the political sensitivity of the topic, given that local press often associate GoA support for counter-terrorism or Iran-related issues with kowtowing to the U.S. This sensitivity is exacerbated during this interim period between the October 28 elections and the December 10 inauguration of Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner as President, with GoA officials avoiding controversial issues and unsure of whether they will have jobs in December. Furthermore, the November 7 Interpol vote to issue international capture notices for five current and former Iranian government officials, indicted in the 1994 terrorist bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA), has also heightened local attention to Iran issues (Ref B). Despite GOA gratitude for USG assistance in the run-up to the Interpol vote, its foreign policy leadership has taken great pains to describe its campaign as a legal matter that is not associated with any "political" campaign against Iran.

[1](#)3. (C) Marteau said he briefed Justice Minister Iribarne on the FATF statement (and also on the accompanying FATF guidance on implementing "activity-based" financial prohibitions of UNSC Resolution 1737 targeting Iran's proliferation activities), but wants to work gradually to build interagency support for an Argentine public statement. He thought it would be difficult for the GoA and Central Bank -- which regulates the financial sector -- to issue a statement prior to the December 10 inauguration. Marteau commented that it is helpful that FATF's October 11 statement is short and relatively benign -- as the Central Bank may be able to issue something similar to financial institutions

without drawing too much media attention.

14. (C) Econoff offered Embassy assistance, and Emboffs will discuss this issue in coordination with Marteau's office with staff level officials at the Central Bank, Foreign Ministry, and Economy Ministry. Ambassador also plans to raise it soon with Justice Minister Iribarne and Central Bank President Martin Redrado, and later in the month with Economy Minister Miguel Peirano.

WAYNE